AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 13 and ending on page 8, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to FIGS 2, 3, and 5, needle end 16 will be discussed in detail. Needle end 16 includes an enlarged needle head which is advantageously dimensioned to reduce the penetration force required to penetrate tissue while optimizing needle strength. Specifically, needle end 16 includes a plurality of concave surfaces 26 obliquely and symmetrically arranged relative to the longitudinal axis "y" contiguously extending and outwardly tapering from needle tip 18 to main shaft 14. In embodiments where the needle body is curved, the concave surfaces on the needle end remain in symmetrical alignment with the longitudinal axis. Preferably four concave surfaces 26 are provided to provide a general diamond shape cross-section as depicted in FIG 5. Adjacent concave surfaces 26 define cutting edges 28 along their lines of intersection. The maximum cross-sectional dimension of needle end 16 is along its approximate mid-section (along lines 5-5 of FIG. 3) and defines a width "W1" greater than a corresponding maximum width "W" of main shaft 14. A preferred ratio of "W1"/W ranges from about 1.5 – 2.00, preferably about 1.75.--

Please the replace paragraph on page 8, lines 2-9, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to FIGS. 2, 3, and 6-11, needle tip 18 will be discussed. Needle tip 18 includes a plurality (preferably four) of concave surfaces 30 arranged at an oblique angle

relative to the axis "y" of the needle, remaining in symmetrical alignment with the longitudinal axis, and intersecting to define a general diamond shape in cross-section best depicted in FIG. 11. Adjacent concave surfaces 30 define cutting edges 32 along their lines of intersection. Preferably, concave surfaces 30 taper outwardly relative to the axis "y" at an angle which is greater than the angle of taper of concave surfaces 26 of needle end 16. Concave surfaces 30 of needle tip 18 extend from extreme needle point 34 to concave surfaces 26 of needle end 16 to provide four additional cutting edges 36 at the respective lines of intersection.--